

**CALIFORNIA
BAY-DELTA
WATER
COALITION**

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Water Association
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Environmental Defense Fund
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Kern County Water Agency
Long Beach Water Department
Los Angeles Department of
Water and Power
Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California
Modesto Irrigation District
Municipal Water District of
Orange County
Natural Heritage Institute
Northern California Water
Association
San Diego County
Water Authority
San Francisco City and County
Water Department
San Joaquin River Exchange
Contractors Water Authority
San Luis & Delta-Mendota
Water Authority
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Stockton East Water District
The Nature Conservancy
Tulare Lake Basin Water
Storage District
Turlock Irrigation District
West Basin Municipal
Water District
Westlands Water District

April 16, 1999

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart SOB
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0504

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt
U.S. Department of Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Senator Feinstein and Secretary Babbitt:

The California Bay-Delta Water Coalition is writing to reiterate our strong support for the Administration's request for \$95 million in federal fiscal year 2000 for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and \$47 million for the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund. As you know, we have been working to develop a consensus recommendation for the use of these funds and have agreed that the following proportional allocation serves the range of program expenditures we anticipate in FY 2000:

1. \$60 million for Ecosystem Restoration Coordination Program activities as authorized by the 1996 Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act. Such activities must be consistent with CALFED Solution Principles and be implemented in such a fashion as to be compatible with or to further the objectives of the CALFED water quality and water supply reliability programs.

CALFED will continue to provide opportunities for broad public and technical input to the funding decision-making process through the Ecosystem Roundtable, a balanced, representative body, as well as various technical review panels. These groups will help determine program priorities, guide selection of specific projects and facilitate coordination and integration with the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund and other ecosystem funding programs.

C/O ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES • 910 K STREET • SUITE 100 • SACRAMENTO, CA • 95814-3512
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2. \$35 million for other CALFED Program activities necessary to address water quality, levee system integrity and water supply reliability issues consistent with existing statutory authorities. Activities may include investigation and implementation of water use efficiency, water quality, levee improvement, and watershed management. Activities may also include technical and economic investigations as necessary to develop a CALFED Water Management Strategy including consideration of water storage consistent with an integrated storage investigation addressing groundwater storage, surface water storage, conjunctive management, and potential re-operation of hydropower facilities at a programmatic, prefeasibility level. We understand that any Water Management Strategy and integrated storage investigation completed by CALFED will address the views of all interested public parties. All such activities must be consistent with the CALFED Solution Principles and be implemented in such a fashion as to be compatible with or further the objectives of the CALFED ecosystem restoration program element.

CALFED should provide opportunities for broad public representation in and technical input to the funding decision-making process for these activities either through the Ecosystem Roundtable or a similarly constituted balanced, representative advisory body, as well as scientific and technical review panels. These groups will help determine program priorities, guide selection of specific projects and facilitate coordination and integration with other funding sources such as Proposition 204 funds and other Central Valley Project-related appropriations.

3. As in previous years, we support full funding of \$47 million for the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to section 102(b) of the Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act.

We urge CALFED to optimize coordination of expenditures from all sources of funds available for all CALFED activities and objectives including both federal and non-federal sources.

We also support completion of a comprehensive cost-share agreement by CALFED before a Record of Decision is issued on the final CALFED programmatic EIS/EIR. In addition, we strongly support completion of the

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Bruce Babbitt
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CALFED assurances package prior to implementation of Stage I activities
beyond federal fiscal year 2000.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of this critical effort.

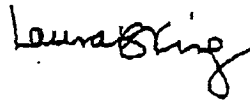
Sincerely,



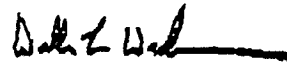
Leslie Friedman Johnson
The Nature Conservancy



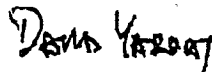
Stephen K. Hall
Association of California Water Agencies



Laura B. King
San Luis and Delta-Mendota
Water Authority



Walter Wadlow
Santa Clara Valley Water District



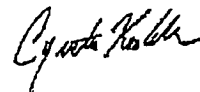
David Yaras
Environmental Defense Fund



Timothy H. Quinn
Deputy General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California



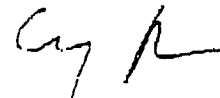
Jason Peltier
Central Valley Project
Water Association



Cynthia Koehler
San Francisco Bay Association



Maureen A. Stapleton
San Diego County Water Authority



Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute of San Francisco